

2012 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest



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HUNT

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Regulations apply August 1, 2012 through July 31, 2013, unless otherwise noted.

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A complete listing of regulations and legal descriptions are available on the DNR website at: www.michigan.gov/dnrlaws.

This digest was printed at zero cost to the state of Michigan, which resulted in a savings of more than \$100,000 to the Game and Fish Protection Fund.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended (MI PA 453 and MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909-7528 or the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, Suite 3-600, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202 or the Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

For information or assistance on this publication, contact the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, P.O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.

(07/18/2012)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) provides a strategic framework for the DNR to effectively manage the state's natural resources. The NRC works closely with a broad cross-section of constituents to advise the DNR on continuous improvement of resource management policy.

Hunter Harassment

Hunters in Michigan have the right to enjoy their sport free from deliberate interference. Individuals whose hunting is being obstructed should promptly report the violation to a local conservation officer, the nearest DNR Operations Service Center or by calling 800-292-7800.

REPORT ALL POACHING Call: 800-292-7800

Hunting License Fees

Note: See species-specific hunting digests, which are published separately from this digest, for limited-license hunts and license fee information. Apprentice hunting licenses (see page 13) cost the same as the corresponding regular hunting license shown below.

License Item Number	License Type	Minimum Age	Fee
000	DNR Sportcard		\$1.00
320	Mentored Youth	9 and younger ²	\$7.50
Deer*			
140	Resident Firearm Deer	17	\$15.00
141	Senior Firearm Deer (residents only)	65	\$6.00
142	Nonresident Firearm Deer	17 ¹	\$138.00
143	Junior Firearm Deer	10-16 ²	\$7.50
145	Resident Archery Deer	17	\$15.00
146	Senior Archery Deer (residents only)	65	\$6.00
147	Junior Archery Deer	10-16 ²	\$7.50
148	Nonresident Archery Deer	17 ¹	\$138.00
340	Combination Deer Resident	17	\$30.00
341	Combination Deer Senior (residents only)	65	\$12.00
342	Combination Deer Junior	10-16 ²	\$15.00
343	Nonresident Combination Deer	17 ¹	\$276.00
Fur Harvester - Valid through March 31, 2013			
190	Resident Fur Harvester	17 ³	\$15.00
191	Senior Fur Harvester (residents only)	65	\$6.00
192	Junior Fur Harvester	10-16 ²	\$7.50
193	Nonresident Fur Harvester	17 ¹	\$150.00
195	Junior Fur Harvester (trap only)	up to 16 ^{2, 4}	\$7.50
Small Game - Valid through March 31, 2013 except 3-day licenses			
130	Resident Small Game	17	\$15.00
131	Senior Small Game (residents only)	65	\$6.00
132	Junior Small Game	10-16 ²	\$1.00
133	Nonresident Small Game	17 ¹	\$69.00
134	3-Day Nonresident Small Game	17	\$30.00
Gamebird Hunting Preserve - Valid through March 31, 2013			
139	Gamebird Hunting Preserve	10	\$15.00

*These hunting licenses expire at the end of the season for which they are issued.

¹ Nonresidents under age 17 may purchase resident licenses.

² For complete information on Youth Hunting Opportunities, see page 13.

³ Residents and nonresidents under age 17 may purchase the junior fur harvester license. See page 21 for exceptions.

⁴ Must be age 8 or older to obtain kill tags for bobcat, otter, marten or fisher.

Sportsperson Discount

A 15 percent discount is provided when four or more hunting or fishing licenses are purchased at one time for the same person. These licenses must be purchased in the same transaction. The waterfowl hunting license, 24-hour fishing license and all-species upgrade license are not eligible for this discount.

Lost Licenses and Hunter Safety Certificates

If you lose your Michigan fishing, hunting or fur harvester license, you may purchase a replacement at any license agent. You must provide the ID number used to purchase the original license. The full price will be charged to replace any license with a kill tag. All other licenses cost \$3 to be replaced.

If you lose a private-land antlerless deer license, contact a DNR Operations Service Center (see page 7).

For a replacement Michigan hunter safety certificate go to <https://secure1.state.mi.us/dupcertrequest>, contact a DNR Operations Service Center, or call 517-373-3292.

Limited-License Hunting Applications

Applications for limited-license hunts (bear, elk, antlerless deer, turkey and waterfowl) may be purchased during the designated application period from license agents or online at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings.

Application Periods	
Spring Wild Turkey Hunting	January 1-February 1
Pure Michigan Hunt	March 1-December 31
Bear Hunting	May 1-June 1
Elk Hunting	May 1-June 1
Fall Wild Turkey Hunting	July 1-August 1
Antlerless Deer Hunting	July 15-August 15
Reserved Waterfowl Hunts	August 1-28

Major Changes for 2012

- A new Mentored Youth Hunting Program allows youth hunters 9 years old and younger to hunt with a mentor. See page 13.
- Deer and elk baiting is prohibited in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties, and within the townships of Oscoda, Plainfield, Wilber, AuSable and Baldwin in Iosco county. See page 16.
- The **season** purchase limit for private-land antlerless deer licenses is five statewide except in DMU 486 and DMU 487, where the limit is 10. See page 14 and the 2012 Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest.
- Opportunities for hunting on private lands have expanded. See the Private Lands Open to Public Hunting section for information about the Hunting Access Program and Hunters Helping Landowners program on page 20.
- The youth early antlerless firearm season has been eliminated.
- The early antlerless firearm and youth and 100 percent disabled veterans hunt are on the same weekend. See page 16.
- Commercial guiding on National Forest land requires a federal special use permit. See page 34.
- In 2012, we proudly observe 75 years of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs and the success of working through partnerships to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. See page 29.

Thank you for purchasing a 2012 Michigan hunting or fur harvester license

Michigan is among the top states in the nation in almost every hunting category, with more than 750,000 licensed hunters contributing over \$1.3 billion annually to the state's economy.

The mission of the DNR Wildlife Division is to enhance, restore and conserve the state's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems for the benefit of Michigan's citizens, visitors and future generations.

Your purchase of a hunting or fur harvester license supports the work of department employees who manage and protect Michigan's wildlife habitat. We encourage you to keep hunting and trapping, and to share your experience with others. In doing so, you can do your part to keep our state's wildlife heritage alive for future generations.

Need information?

Contact the Operations Service Centers listed below, open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or visit our website at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Baraga
427 US-41 North
Baraga, MI 49908
906-353-6651

Bay City
3580 State Park Drive
Bay City, MI 48706
989-684-9141

Cadillac
8015 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-9727

Gaylord
1732 W. M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-3541

Marquette
1990 US-41 South
Marquette, MI 49855
906-228-6561

Newberry
5100 M-123
Newberry, MI 49868
906-293-5131

Reminders for 2012

- Apply for the Pure Michigan Hunt. Hunters may apply as often as they wish for this unique multi-species hunting opportunity that will allow three lucky individuals to hunt for elk, bear, spring and fall wild turkey, and more. See page 10.
- There is no minimum age for hunting in Michigan. For expanded youth hunting opportunities, see page 13.
- All commercial hunting guides using state-owned lands must receive written authorization. See page 32.
- The marten/fisher bag limit has been reduced to a one-animal combined bag limit (one fisher OR one marten). See page 26.
- The entire skull must be submitted for all registered furbearing species including marten, fisher, bobcat and otter. See page 27.
- Feral swine can be taken all year on private land with permission and on public land with any valid hunting license or a concealed pistol license. See page 17.
- A combination or firearm deer license is valid for an antlerless deer in DMU 487 during the firearm or muzzleloading season. See page 14 and the 2012 Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest.
- Importation of hunter-harvested deer, elk or moose carcasses from select states and Canadian provinces into Michigan is prohibited. See page 36 for exceptions and restrictions.

Plainwell
621 N. 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-685-6851

Roscommon
I-75 & M-18 South,
8717 N. Roscommon Rd.
Roscommon, MI 48653
989-275-5151

Rose Lake*
8562 E. Stoll Rd.
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-641-4903

(*This is a field office)

Southfield
26000 W. Eight Mile Rd.
Southfield, MI 48034
248-359-9040

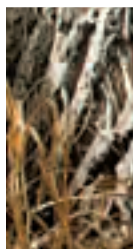
RAP (Report All Poaching) 800-292-7800

Wildlife Restoration Program

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937 created a funding mechanism for state wildlife agencies to restore and manage their wildlife resources. A federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows is collected by the Internal Revenue Service and apportioned to eligible states through a formula based on the number of licensed hunters and the size of each state. Eligible states are those that have passed laws preventing the use of hunting license fees for any purpose other than managing the states' wildlife. The federal excise tax along with hunter license fees are used to acquire lands, protect, restore and manage wildlife habitats, manage wildlife populations, conduct wildlife research, survey and monitor wildlife populations, develop, operate and maintain hunter access, develop, operate and maintain facilities and infrastructure necessary to manage wildlife and to plan for the management of wildlife resources. Additionally, a specific portion of the federal excise tax is dedicated for hunter education, and developing and managing shooting ranges. Since its inception in 1937, Michigan's share of the Wildlife Restoration Funds has reached over \$238 million.



NOTICE: This brochure is not a legal notice or a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed digest issued for hunters' convenience. Copies of Wildlife Conservation Orders can be obtained from our website, www.michigan.gov/dnr/laws.



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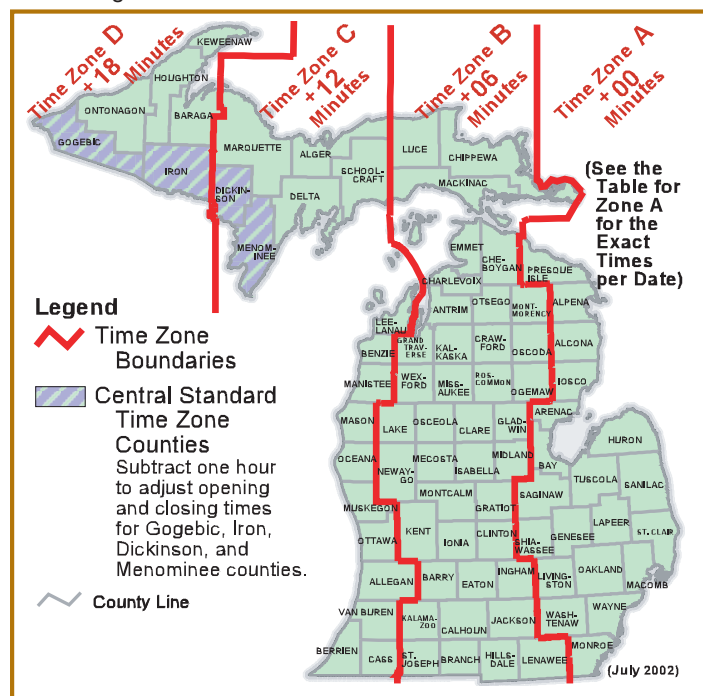
2012-2013 Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits					Notes:
SPECIES	BAG LIMIT	ZONE (page 12)	SEASON DATES	NOTES	
Black Bear	1	See note 1	Sept. 10 - Oct. 26	1	1. See the 2012 Bear Hunting Digest or 2012 Elk Hunting Digest for more information.
Cottontail Rabbit and Snowshoe Hare	5 per day 10 combined in possession	Statewide	Sept. 15 - Mar. 31		2. Crows may be taken outside the open season during hunting hours, in compliance with federal regulations, if these birds are causing a nuisance or creating a health hazard.
Crow	No limit	Statewide	Aug. 1 - Sept. 30 & Feb. 1 - Mar. 31	2	3. See page 14 for antler restriction regulations statewide.
Deer	See page 14 for U.P. and DMU 487 buck hunting regulations and antler restriction regulations.				4. Antlerless deer in select DMUs on private land. See the 2012 Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest.
Early Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	See note 4	Sept. 22-23	4	5. See Zone 1 hunting area map on page 18.
Youth and 100 Percent Disabled Veterans	1	Statewide See page 13	Sept. 22-23	10	6. See December Pheasant Season map on page 18.
Special Disabled Firearm Hunt	1 per kill tag	Statewide See page 35	Oct. 18-21	11	7. Zones 1 and 2: five per day/10 in possession. Zone 3: three per day/six in possession.
Archery	1 per kill tag	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14 & Dec. 1 - Jan. 1	3	8. See the 2012 Fall Wild Turkey Hunting Digest.
Regular Firearm	1 per kill tag	Statewide	Nov. 15 - 30	3	9. Shotguns must be plugged so they are capable of holding no more than three shells. A federal waterfowl stamp is not required to hunt woodcock. HLP endorsement is required. See page 18. See 2012 Waterfowl Hunting Digest.
Muzzleloading	1 per kill tag	Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3	Dec. 7 - 16 Dec. 14 - 23 Dec. 7 - 23	3	10. A firearm or combination license is valid for any deer during this season.
Late Antlerless Firearm	1 per kill tag	See note 4	Dec. 17 - Jan. 1	4	11. See page 35 for eligibility requirements.
Elk	1	See note 1	Aug. 28-31, Sept. 14-17, Sept. 28-Oct. 1, Dec. 8-16, Jan. 16-20	1	12. Special rules for Ionia and Highland field trial areas. See State Parks and Recreation Areas section on page 17.
Pheasant (male only)	2 per day 4 in possession	Zone 1 (partial) Zones 2, 3 Zone 3 (partial)	Oct. 10 - 31 Oct. 20 - Nov. 14 Dec. 1 - Jan. 1	5, 6	13. See Sharp-tailed Grouse map on page 18.
Quail	5 per day 10 in possession	See page 18	Oct. 20 - Nov. 14	12	
Ruffed Grouse	See note 7	Statewide	Sept. 15 - Nov. 14 & Dec. 1 - Jan. 1	7	
Sharp-tailed Grouse	2 per day 4 in possession 6 per season	See page 18	Oct. 10 - 31	13	
Squirrel Fox and Gray (black phase included)	5 per day 10 in possession	Statewide	Sept. 15 - Mar. 1		
Wild Turkey (Fall Season)	See note 8	See note 8	Sept. 15 - Nov. 14	8	
Woodcock	3 per day 6 in possession	Statewide	Sept. 22 - Nov. 5	9	
Opossum, porcupine, weasel, red squirrel, skunk, ground squirrel, woodchuck, feral swine, feral pigeons, starling and house sparrows may be taken year-round with a valid Michigan hunting license. See the State Park and Recreation Area restrictions on page 17. NOTE: For nighttime hunting and furbearer hunting/trapping information see pages 20-27.					

Hunting Hours

Below is a map of the hunting hour time zones. Actual legal hunting hours for bear, deer, fall wild turkey, furbearer and small game for Time Zone A are shown in the table at right. Hunting hours for migratory game birds are different and are published in the 2012-2013 Waterfowl Hunting Digest.

To determine the opening (a.m.) and closing (p.m.) time for any day in another time zone, add the minutes shown below to the times listed in the Time Zone A Hunting Hours Table.

The hunting hour listed in the table reflects Eastern Standard Time, with an adjustment for daylight-saving time. If you are hunting in Gogebic, Iron, Dickinson or Menominee counties (Central Standard Time), you must make an additional adjustment to the printed time by subtracting one hour.



Pure Michigan Hunt

Winners of the 2013 Pure Michigan Hunt (PMH) may purchase one elk, bear, antlerless deer, spring turkey, and fall turkey hunting license at the cost of \$3 per license, except that non-residents are not eligible to purchase the PMH elk license. Each PMH license is valid for the applicable 2013 species hunting season and may be used in any open hunt area for that species, except bear hunting on Drummond Island. Licenses shall be subject to all 2013 hunting regulations. PMH winners may also participate in one reserved waterfowl hunt at a managed waterfowl area. Individuals who have received an elk license through a prior elk drawing are eligible to apply for the PMH. Purchase of PMH licenses does not affect the hunter's eligibility to apply for or purchase other hunting licenses, and will not affect bear preference points or weighted elk chances the hunter has earned. PMH applicants must be at least 10 years old and eligible to purchase regular (non-apprentice) hunting licenses. Hunters may purchase as many PMH applications as they wish until Dec. 31, 2012. Applications cost \$4 each. Drawing results will be posted at www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings on Jan. 28, 2013.

Float Hunting

Hunting and trapping are exclusive rights of landowners bordering the waterways and their invited guests. You must secure permission from the landowner before float hunting or setting traps along those waterways that are protected by the recreational trespass law.

You may float hunt and trap on and along waterways that are surrounded by public land and open to hunting.

Time Zone A.

Bear, Deer, Fall Wild Turkey, Furbearer and Small Game Hunting Hours Table*

One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset (adjusted for daylight saving time).

For hunt dates not listed in the table, please consult your local newspaper or the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/hunting.

2012	Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.	
Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	6:28	8:35	7:00	7:43	7:36	6:55	7:12	5:31
2	6:29	8:34	7:01	7:41	7:38	6:54	7:14	5:30
3	6:30	8:32	7:02	7:39	7:39	6:52	7:15	5:30
4	6:31	8:30	7:03	7:38	6:40	5:51	7:16	5:30
5	6:32	8:29	7:04	7:36	6:41	5:50	7:17	5:30
6	6:33	8:27	7:06	7:34	6:43	5:49	7:17	5:30
7	6:34	8:25	7:07	7:33	6:44	5:48	7:18	5:30
8	6:35	8:23	7:08	7:31	6:45	5:47	7:19	5:30
9	6:36	8:22	7:09	7:29	6:46	5:46	7:20	5:30
10	6:37	8:20	7:10	7:28	6:48	5:45	7:21	5:30
11	6:39	8:18	7:11	7:26	6:49	5:44	7:22	5:30
12	6:40	8:16	7:12	7:24	6:50	5:43	7:23	5:30
13	6:41	8:15	7:13	7:23	6:51	5:42	7:24	5:30
14	6:42	8:13	7:15	7:21	6:53	5:41	7:24	5:30
15	6:43	8:11	7:16	7:20	6:54	5:40	7:25	5:31
16	6:44	8:09	7:17	7:18	6:55	5:39	7:26	5:31
17	6:45	8:08	7:18	7:16	6:56	5:38	7:26	5:31
18	6:46	8:06	7:19	7:15	6:58	5:37	7:27	5:32
19	6:47	8:04	7:21	7:13	6:59	5:37	7:27	5:32
20	6:48	8:02	7:22	7:12	7:00	5:36	7:28	5:33
21	6:49	8:01	7:23	7:10	7:01	5:35	7:29	5:33
22	6:50	7:59	7:24	7:09	7:02	5:35	7:29	5:34
23	6:51	7:57	7:25	7:07	7:04	5:34	7:29	5:34
24	6:52	7:55	7:27	7:06	7:05	5:33	7:30	5:35
25	6:53	7:53	7:28	7:04	7:06	5:33	7:30	5:35
26	6:55	7:52	7:29	7:03	7:07	5:32	7:31	5:36
27	6:56	7:50	7:30	7:02	7:08	5:32	7:31	5:37
28	6:57	7:48	7:31	7:00	7:09	5:32	7:31	5:37
29	6:58	7:46	7:33	6:59	7:10	5:31	7:31	5:38
30	6:59	7:45	7:34	6:58	7:11	5:31	7:31	5:39
31			7:35	6:56			7:32	5:40

***Exceptions:** Woodcock hunting hours are sunrise to sunset. Spring turkey hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour before sunset. See the 2013 Spring Wild Turkey Hunting Digest for legal hunting hours. Waterfowl hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. See the 2012-2013 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Digest for legal hunting hours.

Recreational Trespass

Trespassing is illegal and seriously erodes support for recreational hunting. Permission is required from the landowner or leaseholder before you may hunt on any farm lands or connected woodlots or on any posted private land. Landowners may grant verbal permission. Hunters are required to produce their hunting license to landowners upon request.

If you wound an animal or bird and it runs or flies onto private property, you have no legal right to pursue it without permission of the landowner. Without permission of the landowner, you are trespassing and subject to prosecution.

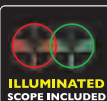
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Hunting and Trapping and Rifle/Shotgun Zones



Michigan is divided into Hunting and Trapping Zones 1-2-3. Zone 1 includes all of the Upper Peninsula. The dividing line between Zones 2 and 3 is: From the Lake Michigan shoreline north of Muskegon Lake easterly on Memorial Drive to Ruddiman Drive to Lake Avenue, easterly on Lake Avenue to M-120 in North Muskegon, northeasterly on M-120 to M-20, easterly on M-20 to US-10, easterly on US-10 to Garfield Road in Bay County, northerly on Garfield Road to Pinconning Road, easterly on Pinconning Road to Seven Mile Road, northerly on Seven Mile Road to Lincoln School Road (County Road 25) in Arenac County, northerly on Lincoln School Road to M-61, easterly on M-61 to US-23, easterly on

US-23 to center line of AuGres River, southerly along center line of AuGres River to Saginaw Bay, easterly 90 degrees east for 7 miles into Saginaw Bay, then northerly 78 degrees east to the International Boundary.

Exception: The waterfowl hunting zone lines differ from those above. Refer to the 2012-2013 Waterfowl Hunting Digest for waterfowl zone descriptions.

Michigan also is divided into a northern rifle zone where rifles may be used for firearm deer hunting and a southern shotgun zone where only shotguns, muzzleloading firearms and certain handguns may be used for deer hunting (see page 30). The dividing line between the northern rifle deer hunting zone and the southern shotgun zone is as follows: Starting at a point on the Lake Michigan shoreline directly west of M-46, then easterly to M-46, then easterly along M-46 to US-131 at Cedar Springs, southerly on US-131 to M-57, easterly on M-57 to Montcalm Road on the Kent-Montcalm county line, southerly on Montcalm Road and the Kent-Ionia county line to M-44, easterly on M-44 to M-66, northerly on M-66 to M-57, easterly on M-57 to M-52 near Chesaning, northerly on M-52 to M-46, easterly on M-46 to M-47, northerly on M-47 to US-10 west of Bay City, easterly on US-10 to I-75, northerly on I-75 and US-23 to Beaver Road (about 1 mile north of Kawkawlin), easterly to Saginaw Bay, north 50 degrees east to the International Boundary.

License Information

Regular hunting or fur harvester license

To purchase any hunting or fur harvester license, you must have one of the following forms of identification:

- Valid Michigan driver's license
- State of Michigan ID card (issued by the Secretary of State)
- DNR Sportcard (issued through license agents or at www.mdnr-elicense.com). If the information on your DNR Sportcard from a previous year is still accurate, you should continue to use it.

In order to purchase a regular hunting license, all hunters born on or after January 1, 1960, must also present their hunter safety certificate, previous hunting license or sign their license in the presence of the license agent. Your signature certifies that you meet the residency and hunter safety requirements to purchase the license. This also applies to hunters who intend to hunt furbearers under a fur harvester license.

- All licenses must be signed to be valid.
- When hunting or trapping, you must carry your license and the identification used to purchase that license.
- It is illegal to use another person's hunting license.
- A junior fur harvester-trap only license is available for youngsters who do not satisfy the firearm training requirements for purchasing a hunting license.

To qualify for any adult resident hunting or fur harvester license, you must meet one of the following criteria:

- Reside in a settled or permanent home or domicile within the boundaries of this state with the intention of remaining in this state. **The ownership of land in Michigan by itself is not a qualification for a resident license.**
- Be a full-time student at a Michigan college or university.
- Serve full time in the U.S. military and be officially stationed in Michigan.
- Serve full time in the U.S. military and maintain residency in Michigan.

The hunter is responsible for verifying his/her license purchase and for obtaining the appropriate license.

U.S. Military Personnel

U.S. military personnel, excluding reservists, who are stationed outside of Michigan and who, at the time of enlistment, were residents of Michigan and who have maintained resident status, may purchase any hunting license that does not require a separate application for \$1. The individual must present leave papers, duty papers, military orders or other evidence verifying that he or she is stationed outside the state, along with a valid Michigan driver's license or voter's registration card. The hunting licenses, available at all license agents and DNR Operations Service Centers, are valid for up to two weeks during the established season. The license buyer can designate the exact hunting period.

Youth Hunting Opportunities

2012 Youth Waterfowl Weekend and Youth Waterfowl Hunting on Managed Waterfowl Areas

Youth waterfowl hunting weekend will be Sept. 15-16, 2012. The daily limit includes ducks, mergansers, geese and coots. Youth 10 to 15 years old must have a small game license and be accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone 18 or older designated by the parent or guardian. Youth under 10 must be accompanied by an adult at least 21 years old, and the youth and adult must meet all the provisions of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. For more details on managed waterfowl areas, reserved youth hunts, daily shooting hours, daily limits, and species restrictions, see the 2012-2013 Michigan Waterfowl Hunting Digest and 2012 Waterfowl Reserved Hunt Application Digest.

Mentored Youth Hunting Program

New! The Mentored Youth Hunting Program allows youth hunters **9 years old and younger** to hunt with a mentor who is at least 21 years old, has hunting experience and possesses a valid Michigan license to hunt other than an apprentice license. The mentored youth license is a "package" license to hunt small game including waterfowl, turkey (spring and fall) and deer (two tags); trap furbearers and fish for all species.

The mentor (adult) is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow or crossbow) in the field while mentoring, and ***the youth hunter must be within arm's length of the mentor (adult) at all times.*** Any hunting device possessed by a mentored youth must be sized appropriately to fit the physical abilities of the youth. The mentor (adult) will be held responsible for all actions of the youth hunter while in the field.

A deer kill tag issued with the mentored youth license is valid for any deer in any deer management unit, except during antlerless-only seasons, when only an antlerless deer may be taken.

See www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting for complete rules and restrictions.

Junior Antlerless Deer Hunting License

Young hunters, ages 9 to 16, may purchase one junior antlerless deer license over the counter July 15 through Aug. 15; however, a 9-year old must be 10 by Sept. 15, 2012 to purchase this license. No application fee or drawing is required. This license is available only in Deer Management Units (DMUs) with a quota for antlerless licenses. This license may be purchased for either public or private land, not both. Nonresidents, ages 10 to 16, are allowed to purchase resident licenses. Also see the Firearm Hunting Rules for Youth Deer Hunters section and 2012 Michigan Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest.

Apprentice Hunting License

A person who does not have a hunter safety certificate and is 10 years of age or older may purchase an apprentice hunting license. An apprentice hunter may purchase this license for two license years before he or she must successfully complete a hunter safety course. The apprentice hunting license is available to residents and nonresidents.

When afield, an apprentice hunter must be accompanied by someone 21 or older who possesses a regular current-year hunting license for the same game as the apprentice. For apprentices between ages 10-16, the accompanying hunter must be the apprentice's parent, guardian or someone designated by the parent or guardian. "Accompanied by" requires the accompanying hunter to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact. **A person may accompany no more than two apprentice hunters while hunting.**

Youth and 100 Percent Disabled Veteran Firearm Deer Hunting Days

A youth and 100 percent disabled veteran firearm deer hunt will take place on all lands in Michigan Sept. 22-23, 2012. Youth 16 years of age or younger may participate in this special hunt. Youth younger than 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow on public or private land or with a firearm on private land only regardless of license used. For youth 10 to 16 years old and qualified veterans with disabilities, valid licenses include a combination, firearm or antlerless deer license. Hunters under the age of 10 must be licensed through the mentored youth hunting program and accompanied by a qualified mentor.

During this two-day hunt only, a firearm or combination license may be used for an antlered or antlerless deer. A Deer Management Assistance (DMA) permit may also be used to take one antlerless deer only, if issued for the area/land upon which hunting. Archery and junior archery deer licenses are not valid for this hunt. The bag limit for this season is one deer.

A veteran who has been determined to have a 100 percent disability, or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, may participate in this hunt. Documentation from the Veterans Administration shall be in the possession of a veteran participating in this hunt.

Firearm Hunting Rules for Youth Deer Hunters

The following restrictions apply to youth hunters who participate in any firearm deer season:

- Youth under 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow equipment on public or private lands or with a firearm on private or Commercial Forest lands only.
- A public-land antlerless deer license is required to hunt antlerless deer on Commercial Forest land.
- All hunters under age 17 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or an adult designated by their parent or guardian; additional qualifications apply with the apprentice or mentored youth licenses.
- All hunters participating in firearm seasons must wear hunter orange.

Rules for Young Hunters (Up to 16 Years of Age)

The following table explains which species youth are allowed to hunt, with an appropriate license. Nonresidents up to and including 16 years old may purchase resident and junior licenses, except nonresidents are not eligible to apply for a Michigan elk license, including nonresident youth.

Species and Age	9 or younger	10-13	14-16
Small Game & Waterfowl	Yes ³	Yes ¹	Yes ¹
Turkey	Yes ³	Yes ¹	Yes ¹
Fur Harvester	Yes ³	Yes ¹	Yes ¹
Trap-only Fur Harvester	Yes	Yes	Yes
Deer	Yes ^{2, 3}	Yes ^{1, 2}	Yes ¹
Bear	No	Yes ^{1, 2}	Yes ¹
Elk	No	Yes ^{1, 2}	Yes ¹

¹ If hunter safety certified and accompanied by an adult 18 years or older, or a youth apprentice with an apprentice license and accompanied by a parent, guardian or someone 21 or older (see Apprentice Hunting License above). "Accompanied by" requires the adult to be able to come to the immediate aid of the apprentice and stay within a distance from the apprentice which allows uninterrupted, unaided visual and verbal contact.

² Youth less than 14 years of age may hunt with archery and crossbow on public or private lands or with a firearm on private or Commercial Forest lands only.

³ If in possession of a Mentored Youth Hunting License and accompanied by an adult mentor 21 years old or older, with hunting experience, who has a valid Michigan hunting license other than an Apprentice License. See additional requirements at www.michigan.gov/mentoredhunting.

White-tailed Deer

Antlered deer means a deer having at least one antler that extends three inches or more above the skull. **Antlerless deer** means a deer without antlers or with antlers where the longest antler extends less than three inches above the skull.

A person is limited to purchasing only two kill tags for taking an antlered (buck) deer. You may purchase one archery license **AND** one firearm license (one kill tag each) **OR** you may purchase one combination license (two kill tags).

If you take two antlered deer, one of the two antlered deer must have at least one antler with four or more antler points one inch or longer. This deer can be taken first or second in either an archery, firearm or muzzleloading season. **Exception:** See U.P. and DMU 487 Buck Hunting Regulations and Antler Restriction Regulations below.

Upper Peninsula and DMU 487 Buck Hunting Regulations

Buck hunting regulations in the Upper Peninsula and Deer Management Unit (DMU) 487 depend upon the type of license purchased.

Option 1 - "One Buck" Limit: Hunters possessing a firearm and/or archery deer license may take only ONE antlered deer in the Upper Peninsula and DMU 487, all seasons combined. Also see Antler Restriction Regulations.

Option 2 - "Two Buck" Limit: Hunters possessing a combination deer license may take two antlered deer in the Upper Peninsula and DMU 487, all seasons combined, but additional antler point restrictions apply (see Antler Restriction Regulations).

Archery Deer Hunting License

It is unlawful to purchase more than one archery deer hunting license. This license entitles residents and nonresidents 10 or older to take one antlered or antlerless deer during the Oct. 1-Nov. 14 or Dec. 1-Jan. 1 open bow and arrow deer season. For youth hunting opportunities see page 13. **Exceptions:** See Antler Restriction Regulations on this page.

Firearm Deer Hunting License

It is unlawful to purchase more than one firearm deer hunting license. Residents and nonresidents may take a deer with at least one antler three inches or longer during the Nov. 15-30 regular firearm season or during the muzzleloading season. **Exceptions:** A firearm deer license is valid for an antlerless deer in DMU 487. See the 2012 Michigan Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest. Also see Antler Restriction Regulations on this page and Firearm Hunting Rules for Youth Deer Hunters on page 13.

Combination Deer Hunting License

Residents and nonresidents are entitled to purchase only one license with two kill tags (regular and restricted) for use during the firearm, muzzleloading and archery seasons. These tags are not valid for the early/late antlerless firearm seasons.

A hunter can use both kill tags in the firearm seasons, both in the archery season or one in each season.

The regular combination kill tag can be used in DMU 487 and all archery seasons to tag either an antlered or antlerless deer. The regular combination kill tag can be used in the firearm seasons to tag a legal (three inches or longer antler) antlered deer except in those areas with antler restrictions as noted in the Antler Restriction Regulations section.

The restricted combination kill tag can be used in DMU 487 and all archery seasons to tag an antlerless deer or it can be used to tag an antlered deer during either the archery or firearms seasons if the antlered deer has at least one antler with four or more antler points each one inch or longer. It is unlawful to use this tag on a smaller antlered deer regardless of the season or area in which it was taken.

Combination kill tags cannot be used to tag an antlerless deer during the firearm or muzzleloading seasons, except within DMU

487 and during the Youth and 100 Percent Disabled Veteran Firearm Deer Hunt. See the 2012 Michigan Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest.

Exception: See Tagging Option for Antlerless Deer Hunters below.

Antlerless Deer Hunting License

This license entitles residents and nonresidents 10 and older to take an antlerless deer or a deer with antlers less than three inches in length within the DMU specified on the license. Hunters may apply for a private-land OR public-land antlerless deer license from July 15-Aug. 15. An application is recommended for public-land antlerless deer hunting or private-land hunting in DMUs where license availability is relatively limited. A public-land antlerless deer license is required to hunt antlerless deer on Commercial Forest land. In some DMUs, private-land antlerless deer licenses are only available over the counter beginning Sept. 10. For youth hunting opportunities see page 13 and for additional details on antlerless deer hunting, see the 2012 Michigan Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest.

All deer hunters who are hunting during a firearm season are required to wear hunter orange. They also must have permission before hunting on private land. The telephone number of the private landowner is required to acquire a private-land antlerless deer license.

Tagging Option for Antlerless Deer Hunters

Antlerless deer hunters with a valid unused license for an antlered deer and an unused antlerless license for the DMU in which they are hunting, may tag a male antlerless deer with the antlered deer license kill tag. Both licenses must be in the hunter's possession at the time of harvest. All deer must be immediately tagged.

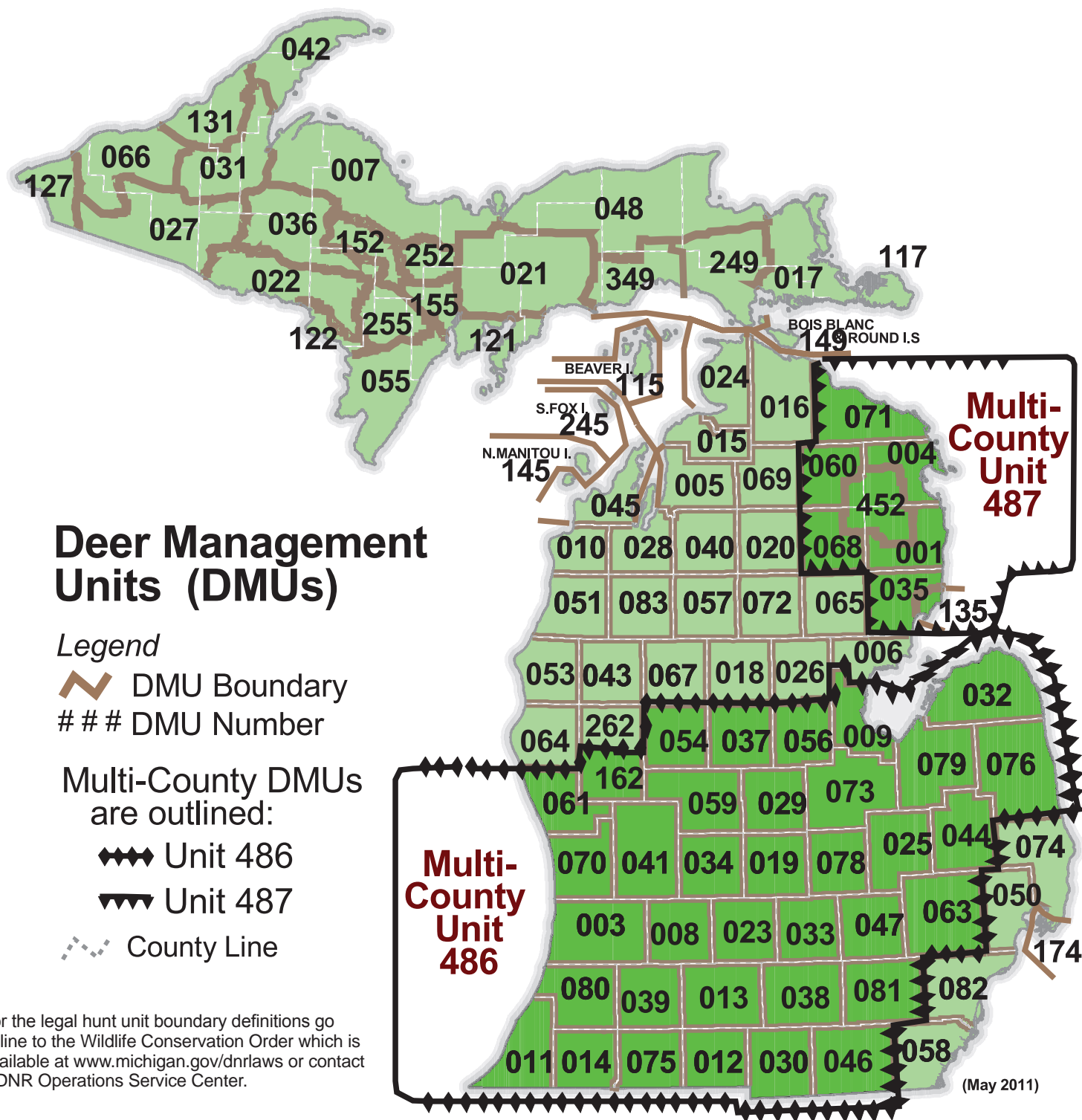
A male antlerless deer means a male deer without antlers or with antlers where the longest antler extends less than three inches above the skull.

Antler Restriction Regulations

The table below shows the antler restrictions required with specific deer licenses by area or Deer Management Unit (DMU). See map of DMU boundaries on page 15. **Exceptions:** If you are going to hunt deer in the Upper Peninsula or DMU 487, also see the Upper Peninsula and DMU 487 Buck Hunting Regulations above.

License	1 antler at least 3" long	2 legal pts. on one side*	3 legal pts. on one side*	4 legal pts. on one side*
Regular combination deer license	Lower Peninsula except DMUs 045, 115 & 487	DMU 245	Upper Peninsula and DMUs 045, 115 & 487	
Restricted combination deer license				Statewide
Firearm deer license	Statewide except DMUs 045, 115, 117, 122, 135 & 245	DMUs 117, 135 & 245	DMUs 045, 115 & 122	
Archery deer license	Statewide except DMUs 045, 115, 117, 122, 135 & 245	DMUs 117, 135 & 245	DMUs 045, 115 & 122	

*A legal antler point must be at least one inch long.



Hunters, Learn to Identify "Button Bucks"

Each year many hunters harvest buck fawns, commonly called "button bucks" on antlerless deer licenses. Though legal, harvesting these deer may reduce the number of antlered bucks the following year. By learning the difference between adult does and buck fawns and observing these suggestions, hunters can make a conscious choice on whether to harvest a buck fawn.

- Look at body shapes of deer. Adult does are different in shape from juvenile deer. The mature doe is rectangular in shape with a long neck and face. Fawns are square-shaped and have a short neck and face.
- Button bucks often travel alone, but adult does rarely do. Consider this when you observe a single antlerless deer.

- Wait until more than three deer are together; then harvest one of the larger antlerless deer.
- If two juvenile deer are without an adult, one will probably be a button buck. Normally the young male is larger than the female and may be mistaken for an adult doe because of its larger size. Look at the head of the deer. A doe's head is normally more rounded on top between the ears and a buck's head is flattened by the base of the antlers.
- Look closely with binoculars for the antler bases on button bucks.
- Wait until the deer are standing or moving slowly. It is easier to identify sex and age when deer are not running or moving fast.
- Shoot with good visibility. Poor light or heavy cover makes it difficult to determine sex and age.

Deer Hunting Seasons

Antlerless deer licenses are valid during all deer seasons with hunting equipment appropriate for the season and hunting zone.

Season	Location	Season Dates
Early Antlerless Firearm*	Private land in select DMUs	Sept. 22-23
Youth and 100 Percent Disabled Veterans Hunt	Statewide	Sept. 22-23
Special Disabled Firearm Hunt	Statewide	Oct. 18-21
Archery**	Statewide	Oct. 1-Nov. 14 Dec. 1-Jan. 1
Regular Firearm	Statewide	Nov. 15-30
Muzzleloading	Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3	Dec. 7-16 Dec. 14-23 Dec. 7-23
Late Antlerless Firearm*	Private land in select DMUs	Dec. 17-Jan. 1

* See the Early and Late Season Firearm Antlerless Map in the 2012 Michigan Antlerless Deer Hunting Digest.

** A combination license can be used to tag antlerless deer during the archery seasons.

Baiting and Feeding Prohibitions for Deer and Elk

Baiting is not allowed in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency, and Oscoda counties, and within the townships of Oscoda, Plainfield, Wilber, Au Sable, and Baldwin in Iosco county.

In the rest of Michigan, the following rules apply:

"Bait" means a substance composed of grains, minerals, salt, fruits, vegetables, hay or other food materials, which may lure, entice or attract deer as an aid in hunting.

- Baiting may occur only from Oct. 1 to Jan. 1.
- Bait volume at any hunting site cannot exceed two gallons.
- Bait dispersal must be over a minimum 10-foot by 10-foot area.
- Bait must be scattered directly on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- To minimize exposure of deer to diseases that may be present, the DNR recommends not placing bait or feed repeatedly at the same point on the ground, and only baiting when actively hunting.

Feeding for recreational viewing is not allowed in DMU 487.

In the rest of Michigan, the following rules apply:

"Feed" means a substance composed of grain, mineral, salt, fruit, vegetable, hay or other food material, that may attract deer or elk for any reason other than hunting.

- Feed volume at any residence cannot exceed two gallons.
- Feed may be no more than 100 yards from a residence on land owned or possessed by that person.
- Feed must be scattered on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- Feed must be at least 100 yards from any area accessible to cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses or captive cervidae.
- Food plots, naturally occurring foods, standing agricultural crops or food placed as a result of using normal agricultural practices are not considered to be bait or feed.

Special Deer Hunts

Fort Custer Training Center

The training center is sponsoring a Freedom Hunt Oct. 19-21, 2012 for hunters eligible to participate in the special deer hunt for persons with disabilities (see page 35). Applications can be found at www.fortcusterhunt.org or contact Jonathan Edgerly at jonathan.edgerly@us.army.mil or by phone at 269-731-6570. The application deadline is Oct. 1, 2012.

Hoffmaster State Park

This park will be scheduling a managed antlerless deer hunt. Hunters must apply by Sept. 7, 2012 to be considered for the drawing. Contact the park office at 231-798-3711 or visit www.michigan.gov/deer for more information.

North Manitou Island Hunts

Deer hunt licenses are available for archery from Oct. 1-26, 2012, muzzleloading and regular firearm from Oct. 27-Nov. 13, 2012. There is a \$25 application fee. For information, contact the Park Headquarters, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630; 231-326-5134, or at www.nps.gov/slbe.

Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge Deer Hunting

Contact the SNWR (6975 Mower Rd., Saginaw, MI 48601) at 989-777-5930.

Shiawassee River State Game Area Deer Hunting

Contact the DNR Field Office (225 E. Spruce Street, St. Charles, MI 48655) at 989-865-6211. The deadline for application is Sept. 5, 2012.

South Fox Island Deer Hunting

Deer hunting permits are available for South Fox Island during archery season from Oct. 1-28 and/or firearm season from Oct. 29 through Nov. 26. Contact: DNR Operations Service Center, 8015 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601; 231-775-9727.

Deer Cooperator Patches

Cooperator patches are used as an incentive for successful hunters to bring their deer to DNR offices and other check stations. A deer head (antlers must still be attached on bucks) or entire carcass must be presented to receive a patch. Patches are not available by mail. Hunters should check the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/deer and media releases for the final list of 2012 deer check stations. Hunters also are urged to call ahead whenever possible to confirm hours and days of operation. **The last day for deer check is Jan. 4, 2013.**

Deer Management Assistance (DMA) Permits

DMA permits may be used to take antlerless deer only. Deer taken with DMA permits do not count against a hunter's regular bag limit. DMA permits are not stand-alone licenses. You must purchase an appropriate deer license for the season in which you are hunting.

Deer Carcass Disposal

Irresponsible dumping of deer carcasses can spread disease and may result in a ticket. Hunters who process their deer should properly dispose of hide, brain and spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, bones and head in an approved landfill.

Don't let your favorite hunting spot go to pot



Growers are using public lands to grow illegal marijuana.

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1-800-235-HEMP (4367)

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